

## Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

/084 W

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P R 201605Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9041

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

REF: BAMAKO 212 (,95-))

1. WHILE I GENERALLY AGREE WITH ASSESSMENT CONTAINED  
PARA 1 REFTTEL, I AM AFRAID THAT APPROACH SUGGESTED  
PARA 3 WOULD BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO UPPER VOLTA  
SINCE IT WOULD MEAN FORMALLY GIVING UP ITS SOVEREIGNTY  
OVER AN AREA WHICH GOUV HAS, SINCE INDEPENDENCE, CON-  
SIDERED AS BELONGING TO UPPER VOLTA, AND WHICH IS  
CLEARLY LOCATED WITHIN UPPER VOLTA IN ALL THE MAPS  
(FRENCH AND AMERICAN) WHICH WE HAVE CONSULTED. GIVEN  
PRESENT POPULAR MOOD IN UPPER VOLTA, I DOUBT THAT  
PRESIDENT LAMIZANA COULD LAST A WEEK IF HE WERE TO  
AGREE TO SUCH PROPOSAL.

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2. AT ANY RATE, I WOULD QUESTION THE ADVISABILITY OF HAVING MAJOR SAHEL AID DONORS ENTER THE PICTURE AT THIS TIME WHEN THE QUADRIPARTITE MEDIATION COMMISSION IS BARELY GETTING STARTED. AS LONG AS MEDIATION EFFORTS ARE CARRIED OUT UNDER OAU AUSPICES, THE PROBLEM REMAINS AN AFRICAN PROBLEM. I BELIEVE THAT THE INTERVENTION OF MAJOR AID DONORS, HOWEVER WELL INTENTIONED IT MIGHT BE, WOULD BE RESENTED HERE, AND PERHAPS ALSO IN BAMAKO AND IN OTHER WEST AFRICA CAPITALS.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT ALSO THAT LIPTAKO-GOURMA AUTHORITY AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, IS NOT EQUIPPED TO UNDERTAKE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY IN QUESTION, NOR INDEED TO ENGAGE IN A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT TASK. THE AUTHORITY NOW CONSISTS ESSENTIALLY OF TWO OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, BAKARY TOURE, WHO IS A MALIAN NATIONAL. OBVIOUSLY, THE AUTHORITY WOULD HAVE TO BE ENTIRELY REORGANIZED IF THE MEDIATION COMMISSION SHOULD PROPOSE (AND THE TWO CONTENDING PARTIES WOULD ACCEPT) THAT IT SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN THE MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE. THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MALIAN DELEGATION AT THE RECENT CEAO CONFERENCE (NIAMEY 230) HARDLY SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT MALIANS AND VOLTANS ARE LIKELY TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER WITHIN AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA AUTHORITY, AT LEAST NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

GRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, ML, UV  
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